



## brook trout

*Salvelinus fontinalis*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Salmoniformes
Family:	Salmonidae

### Features

The brook trout has lighter “worm-like” markings on a darker background on its back. It also has vivid white lines on the front edge of its lower fins. Like other trout, it has an adipose (fat) fin and tiny scales. The male develops deep yellow-red-crimson colorations with red and pale yellow spots surrounded by bluish circles along the sides during the breeding season. Adults reach 10 to 13 inches by their third year. Fish over one pound are considered trophy sized.

### Natural History

The brook trout is found in clear, coldwater streams in northeast Iowa. Although natural reproduction is limited to two locations, fish are stocked into coldwater streams in nine northeastern Iowa counties. It spends most of its life in a short section of a stream. It lives mostly on a diet of insects and other small aquatic life. It spawns in the fall with the females constructing nests in clean gravel areas, often near the headwaters of spring-fed streams. Young females deposit 200 to 500 eggs, but larger

fish may produce 2,500 or more. Eggs hatch in about 45 days (longer in colder water). The tiny fry stay buried in the gravel until spring. The brook trout seldom lives longer than three years.

### Habitats

interior rivers and streams

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

northeast Iowa

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.